

# Humanities Disposition Study

Fall 2016

Author: Joseph F. van Gaalen, Ph.D., Director, Academic Affairs Assessment

Beginning fall 2016 the Humanities Department included a series of disposition questions at the end of the pre- and post-tests designed to measure student point of view on varying topics associated with the course. All of the questions are ordinal in nature with response options of “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Neutral”, “Disagree”, and “Strongly Disagree”, and are aligned with other courses within the discipline (e.g., HUM 2211 and HUM 2250). Further, some disposition questions align with other courses within the Humanities Department. This report will focus on cross-discipline comparisons of disposition questions.

The Humanities courses undergoing assessment for fall 2016, ARH 1000, HUM 2211, 2235, 2250, MUL 1010, PHI 2010, 2103, 2600, and REL 2300, included common questions that overlap in some areas. Table 1 below lists each disposition prompt (and associated learning outcome) along with which courses include that question.

	ARH 1000	HUM 2211	HUM 2235	HUM 2250	MUL 1010	PHI 2010	PHI 2103	PHI 2600	REL 2300
<b>Engage with the course material on a personal level.</b>									
Q1	I often continue to think about ideas or issues covered in my classes after my instructor is finished with them.	X				X	X	X	X
Q2	I often feel that ideas or concepts that I study in my classes are relevant to my own life.	X				X	X	X	X
Q3	I allow what I learn in class to impact how I see the world.	X				X	X	X	X
<b>Display open-mindedness.</b>									
Q4	It bothers me when different perspectives on an issue seem equally valid. (R)	X	X	X	X				
Q5	I value more perspectives on an issue rather than fewer	X	X	X	X				
Q6	I am willing to change my mind based on new evidence.	X	X	X	X				
Q7	I do not like it when my beliefs are challenged. (R)	X	X	X	X				
<b>Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another.</b>									
Q8	Instead of focusing on what I think is wrong about what someone is saying or writing I prefer to try to understand how the ideas might make sense.	X					X	X	X
Q9	I feel like those who disagree with me make me look more seriously at perspectives I'd otherwise dismiss.	X					X	X	X
Q10	I feel that reading a text from the author's perspective is essential for understanding it.	X					X	X	X
<b>Relate the course material to life outside the classroom.</b>									
Q11	I like to see connections between course material and current events.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q12	I often discuss ideas from my readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q13	I often find ways to relate ideas or concepts from my classes to something of interest to my friends.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Resist the urge for quick and easy answers.</b>									
Q14	I feel uncomfortable when I leave a class not knowing what to believe about something we have been studying. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X
Q15	I don't like feeling uncertain about ideas or issues. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X
Q16	I think instructors should give firm solutions to problems discussed in class. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X
Q17	If an answer occurs to me right away, I still prefer to consider other possibilities.		X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>Seek knowledge independently.</b>									
Q18	I often investigate ideas, issues, or concepts more deeply outside of my classes to learn more about them.					X			X
Q19	If something sparks my interest, I will look into it further on my own.					X			X
Q20	I believe knowledge is only valuable if it improves my grade. (R)					X			X

Table 1. Organization of disposition questions by course.

## Engage with the course material on a personal level

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the first outcome “Engage with the course material on a personal level” shared by ARH 1000, MUL 1010, PHI 2010, 2103, 2600, and REL 2300 are shown in Figure 1 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

	Art			Music			Philosophy						Religions					
	ARH 1000			MUL 1010			PHI 2010			PHI 2103			PHI 2600			REL 2300		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q1	2%	-7%	4%	-1%	10%	-9%	3%	3%	-6%	3%	8%	-11%	1%	2%	-3%	8%	1%	-2%
Q2	-1%	-5%	6%	-1%	4%	-3%	0%	-3%	3%	-4%	-21%	24%	4%	-7%	3%	-2%	-2%	4%
Q3	-2%	0%	2%	-3%	4%	-1%	1%	-3%	2%	6%	2%	-8%	1%	0%	-1%	1%	2%	-1%

Scale: -25% -15% -5% 0% 5% 15% 25%

Figure 1. Comparison of responses to disposition “Engage with the course material on a personal level.” Questions from left to right, - reflects the ordinal options “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree”, Neutral reflects “Neutral”, and + reflects “Agree”, and “Strongly Agree.”

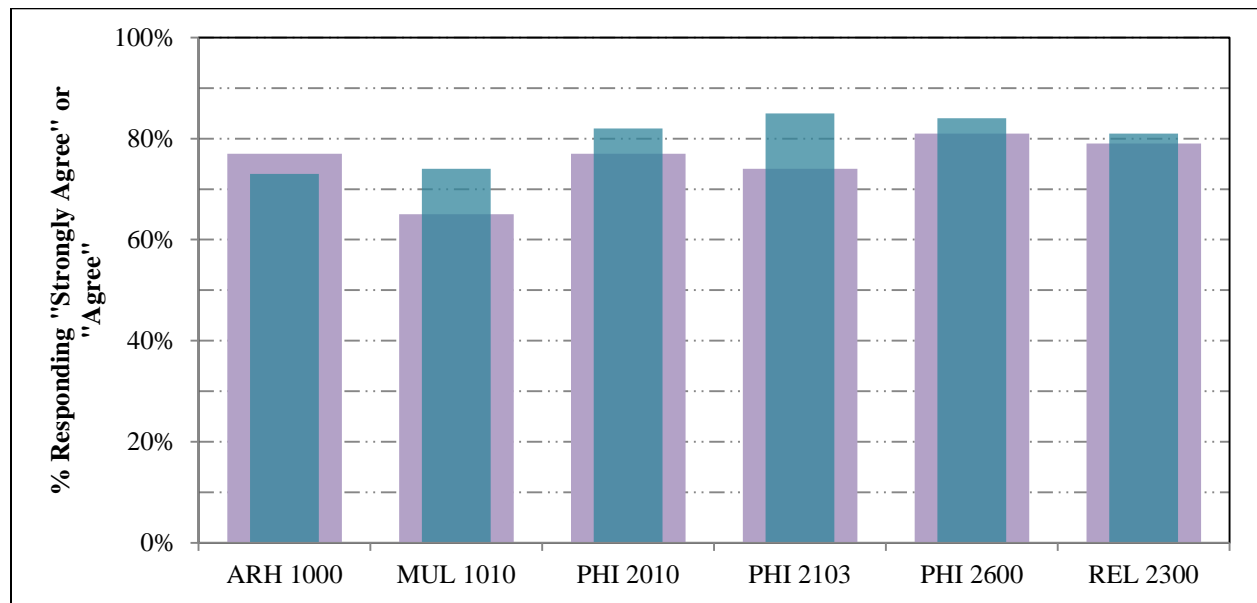


Figure 2. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q1 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

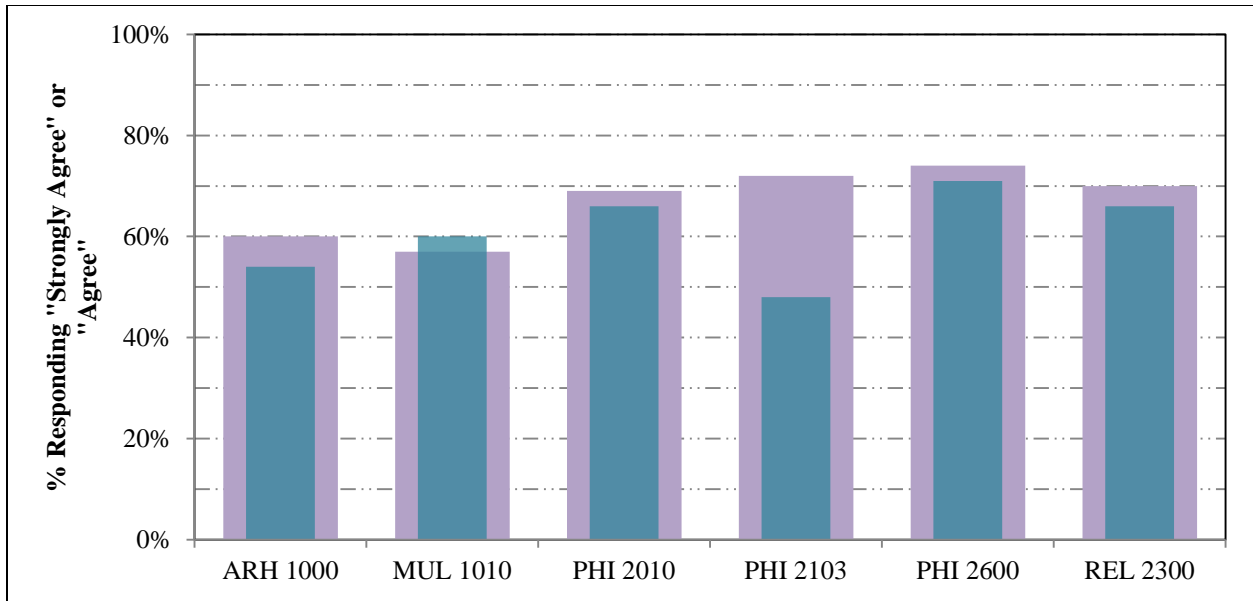


Figure 3. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q2 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

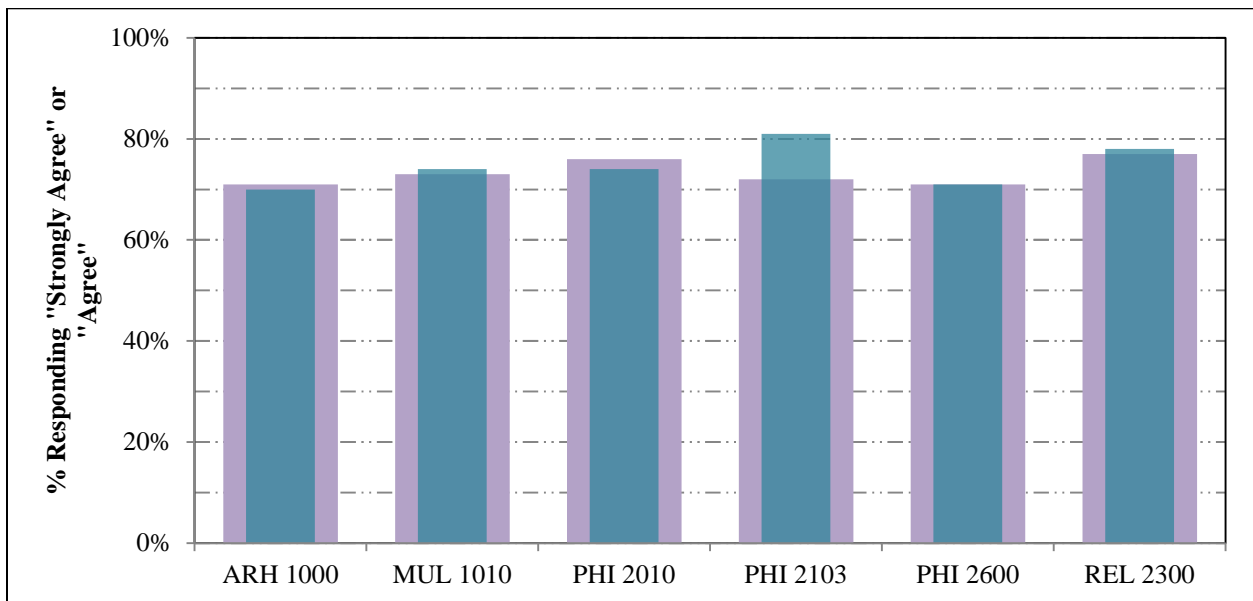


Figure 4. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q3 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

### Display open-mindedness

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the second outcome “Display open-mindedness.” shared by ARH 1000, HUM 2211, 2235, and 2250 are shown in Figure 5 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9.

	Art			Humanities								
	ARH 1000			HUM 2211			HUM 2235			HUM 2250		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q4	-7%	9%	-2%	5%	-3%	-1%	-4%	-4%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Q5	-1%	-3%	5%	-3%	1%	2%	3%	-2%	-1%	-2%	-6%	8%
Q6	0%	6%	-6%	2%	0%	2%	0%	2%	-3%	4%	-3%	-1%
Q7	2%	-2%	1%	2%	-3%	1%	0%	4%	-4%	4%	-6%	3%

Scale: -25% -15% -5% 0% 5% 15% 25%

Figure 5. Comparison of responses to disposition “Display open-mindedness.” Questions from left to right, - reflects the ordinal options “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree”, Neutral reflects “Neutral”, and + reflects “Agree”, and “Strongly Agree.” However, for questions 4 and 7, - reflects “Agree” and “Strongly Agree” and + reflects “Disagree” and “Strongly Disagree” as the prompt is written in negative phrasing.

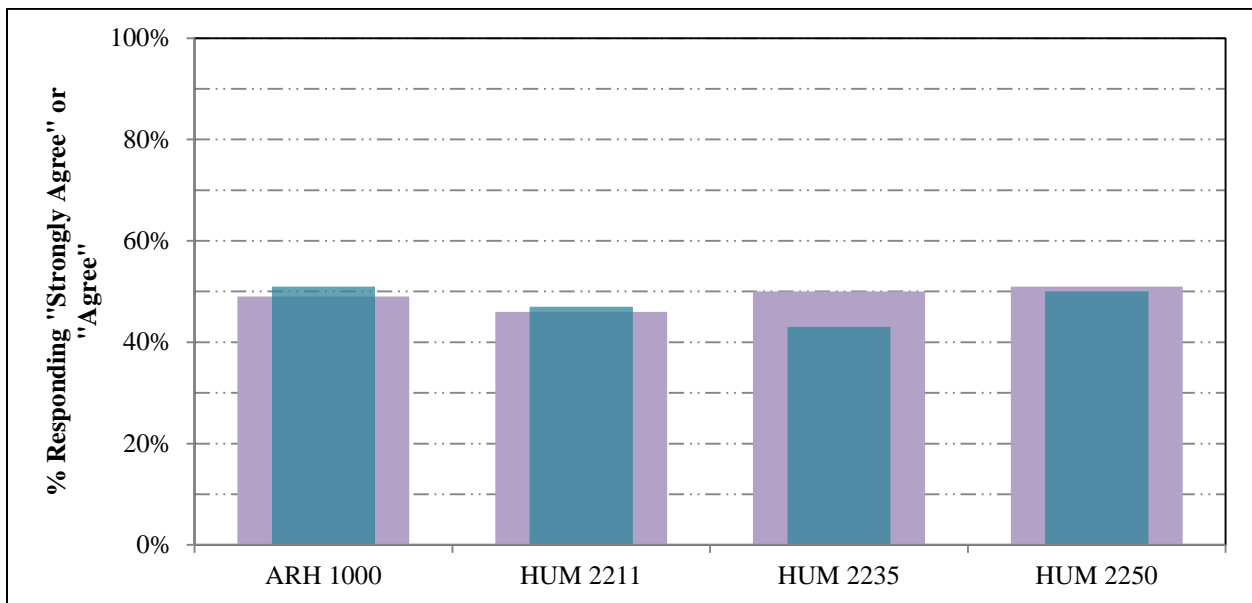


Figure 6. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q4 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

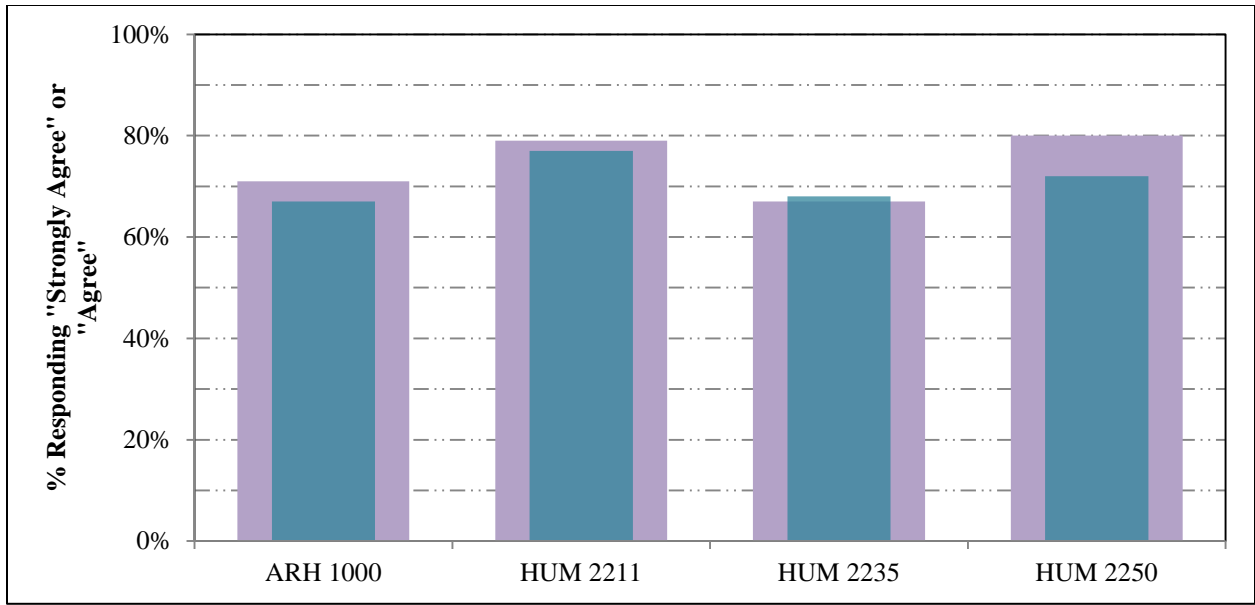


Figure 7. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q5 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

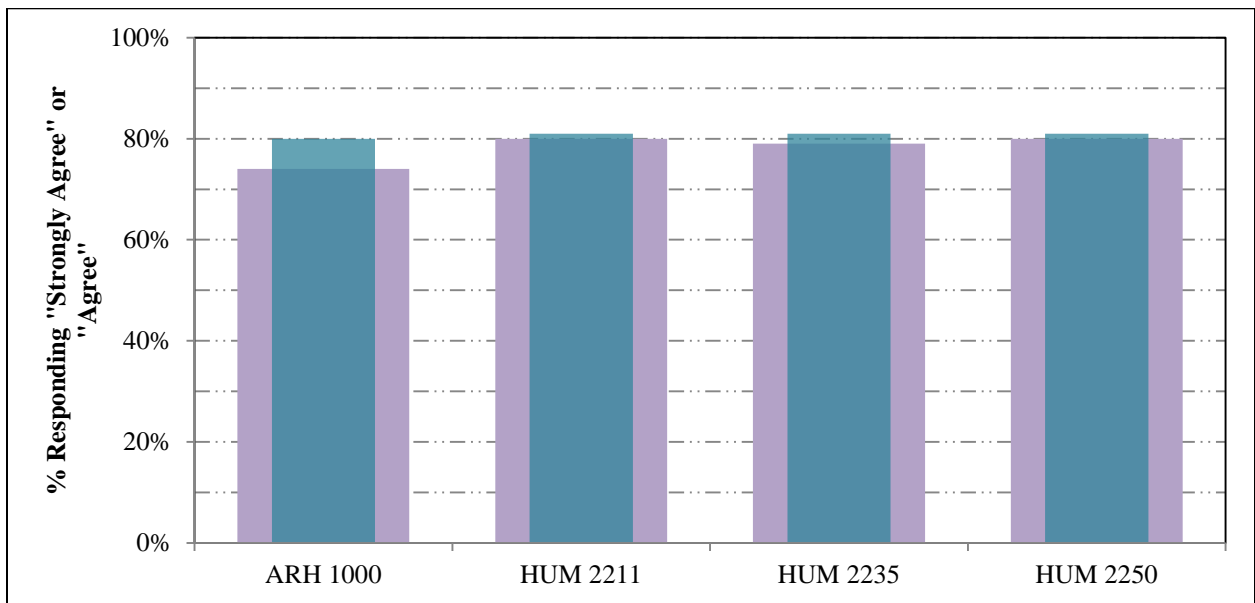


Figure 8. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q6 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

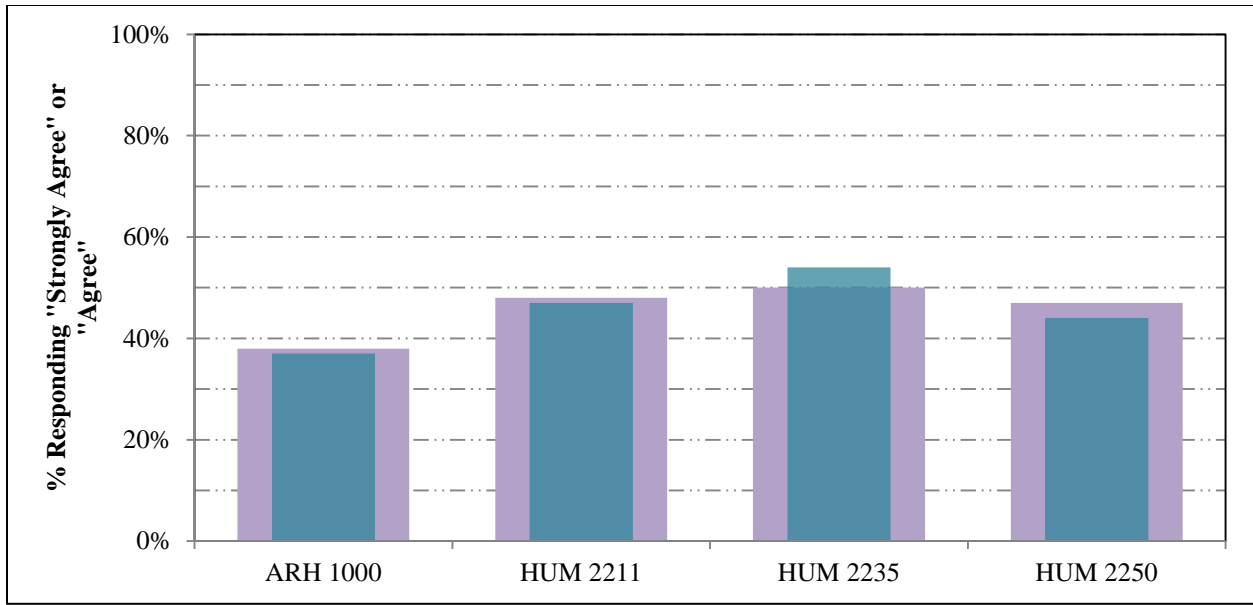


Figure 9. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q7 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

## Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the third outcome “Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another.” shared by ARH 1000, PHI 2010, 2103, 2600, and REL 2300 are shown in Figure 10 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 11, 12, and 13.

	Art			Humanities						Religions					
	ARH 1000			PHI 2010			PHI 2103			PHI 2600			REL 2300		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q8	-3%	6%	-3%	1%	1%	-1%	9%	-4%	-4%	-2%	-3%	5%	7%	-4%	2%
Q9	2%	-2%	0%	1%	1%	-3%	-2%	-6%	8%	-1%	-6%	7%	-4%	-10%	9%
Q10	-2%	6%	-3%	3%	6%	-10%	4%	-3%	-1%	2%	2%	-4%	4%	1%	-7%

Scale: -25% -15% -5% 0% 5% 15% 25%

Figure 10. Comparison of responses to disposition “Display open-mindedness.” Questions from left to right, - reflects the ordinal options “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree”, Neutral reflects “Neutral”, and + reflects “Agree”, and “Strongly Agree.”

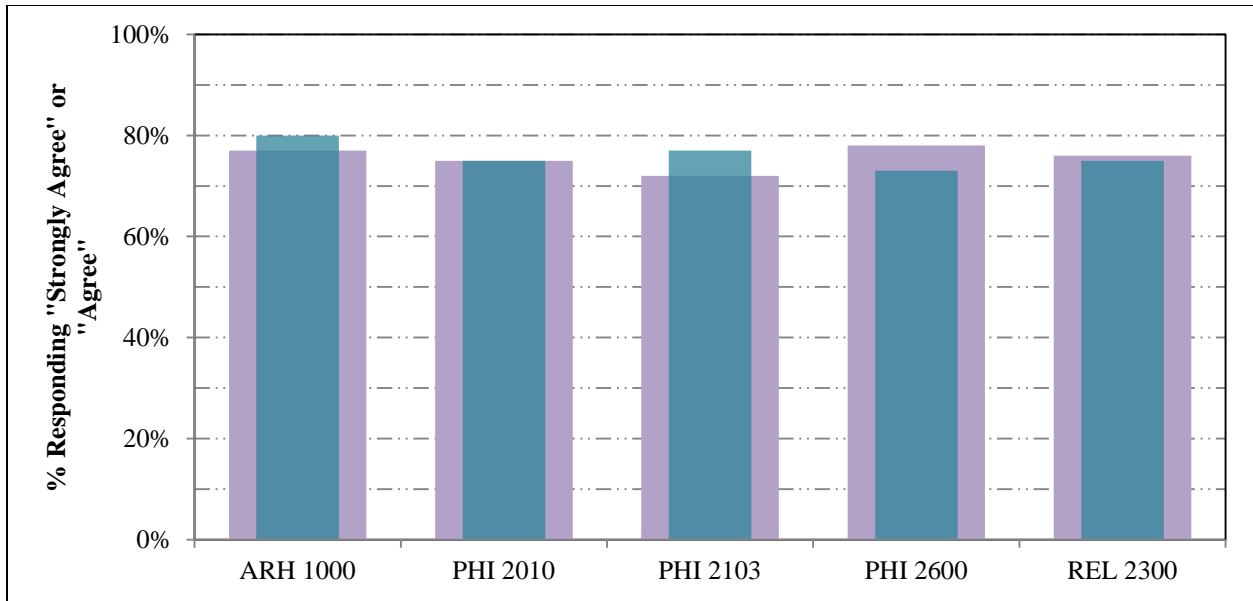


Figure 11. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q8 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

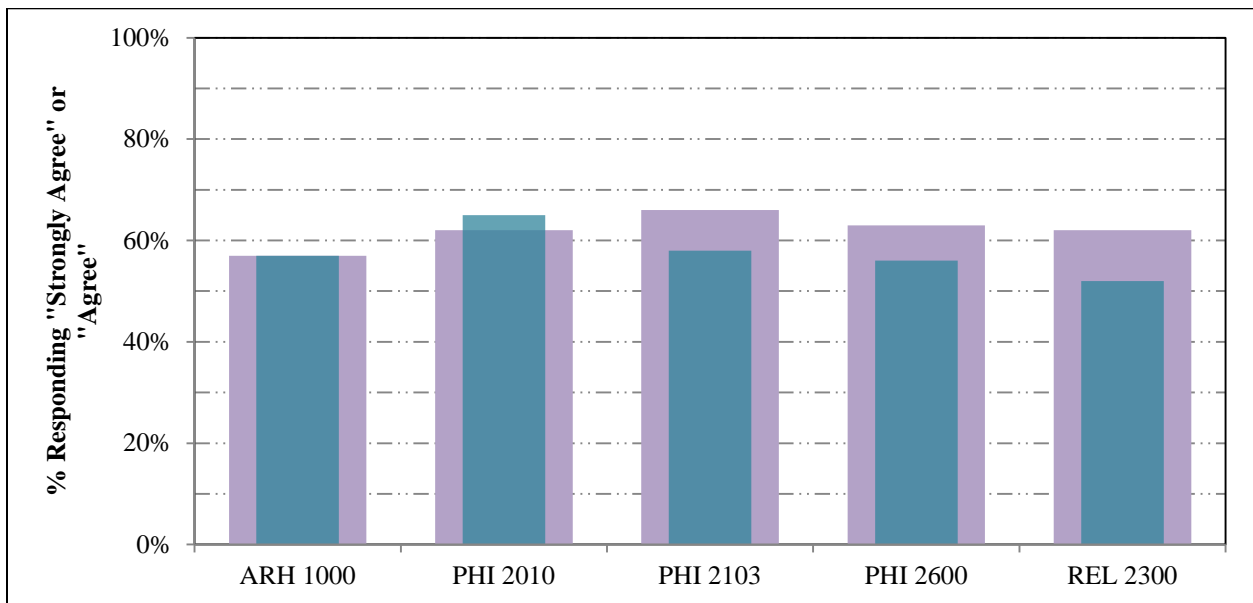


Figure 12. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q9 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

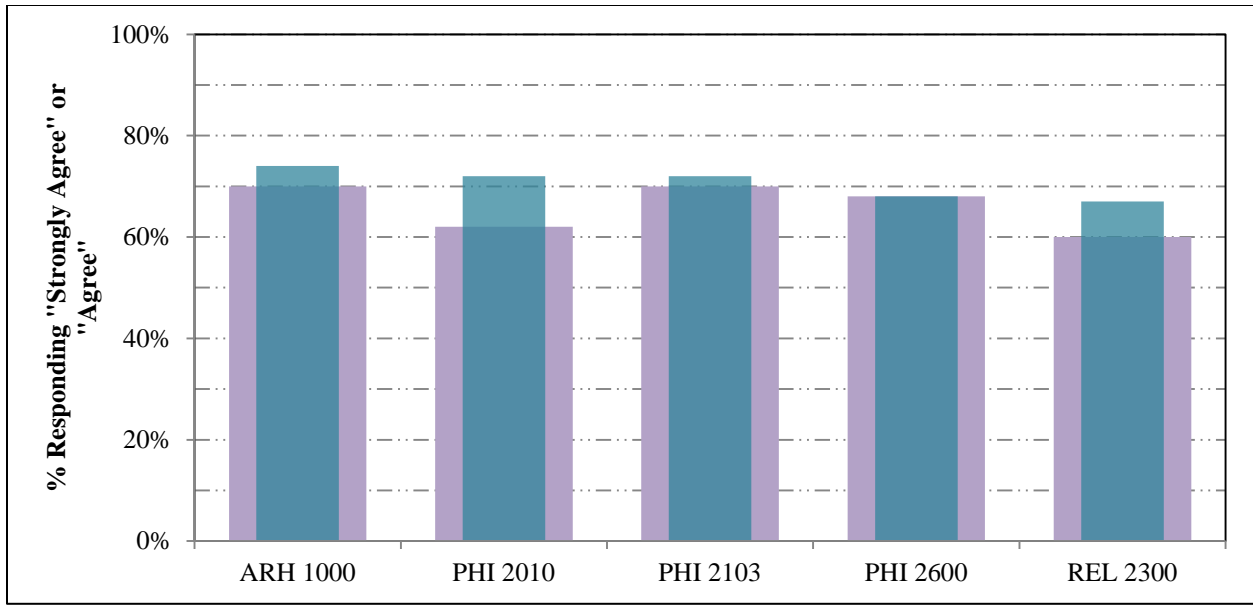


Figure 13. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q10 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

## Relate the course material to life outside the classroom

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the fourth outcome “Relate the course material to life outside the classroom.” shared by all humanities courses are shown in Figure 14 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 15, 16, and 17.

	Art			Humanities						Music			Humanities						Religions								
	ARH 1000			HUM 2211			HUM 2235			HUM 2250			MUL 1010			PHI 2010			PHI 2103			PHI 2600			REL 2300		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q11	0%	5%	-6%	-1%	-11%	12%	1%	-2%	2%	0%	-4%	4%	-4%	6%	-1%	1%	-1%	0%	1%	-2%	1%	1%	0%	-1%	1%	-3%	1%
Q12	3%	3%	-6%	-3%	-4%	7%	-3%	-10%	13%	-3%	4%	-1%	2%	3%	-5%	0%	2%	-1%	2%	-7%	4%	-1%	0%	1%	-3%	3%	-3%
Q13	0%	1%	-1%	1%	-15%	12%	-2%	4%	-3%	-3%	-4%	6%	-1%	-5%	6%	2%	-2%	0%	8%	-16%	8%	2%	-6%	4%	-3%	-12%	13%

Scale: -25% -15% -5% 0% 5% 15% 25%

Figure 14. Comparison of responses to disposition “Display open-mindedness.” Questions from left to right, - reflects the ordinal options “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree”, Neutral reflects “Neutral”, and + reflects “Agree”, and “Strongly Agree.”



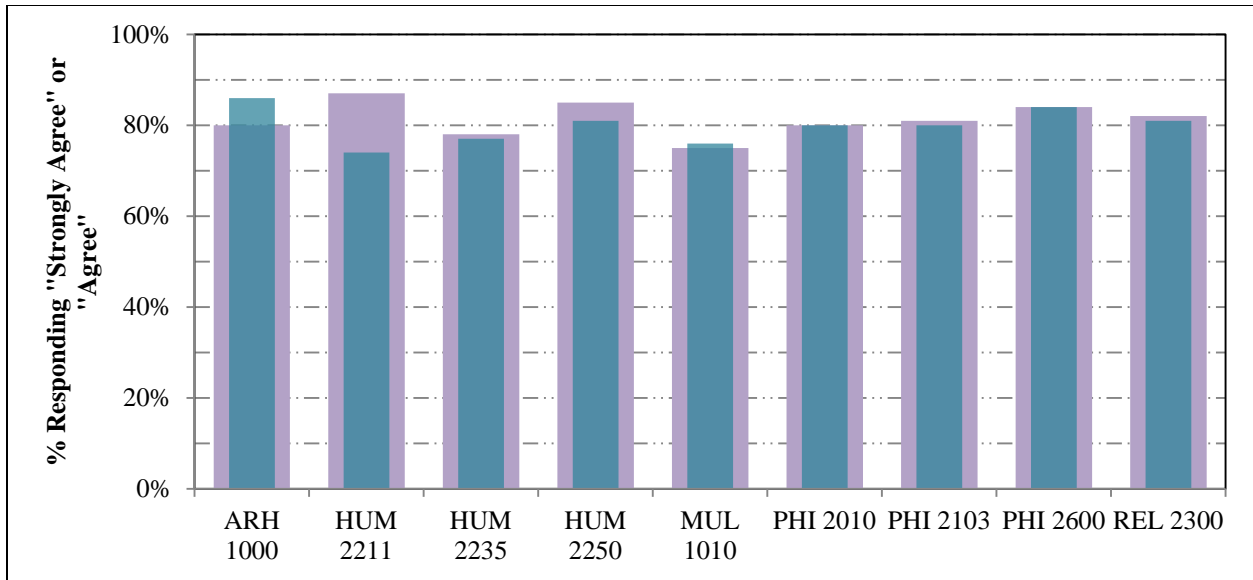


Figure 15. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q11 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

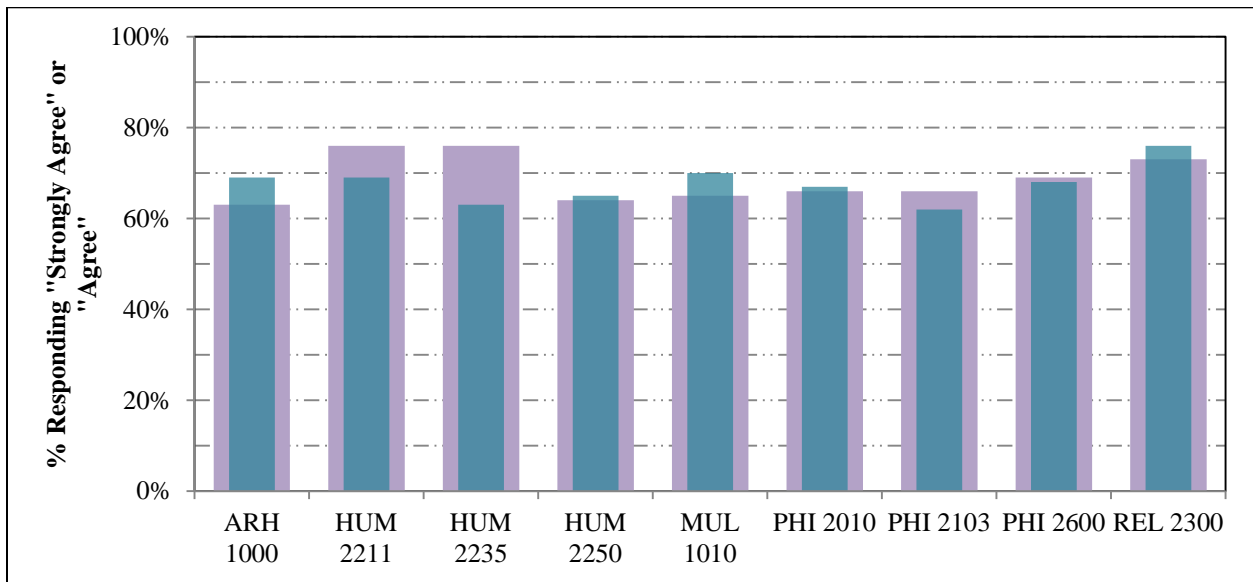


Figure 16. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q12 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

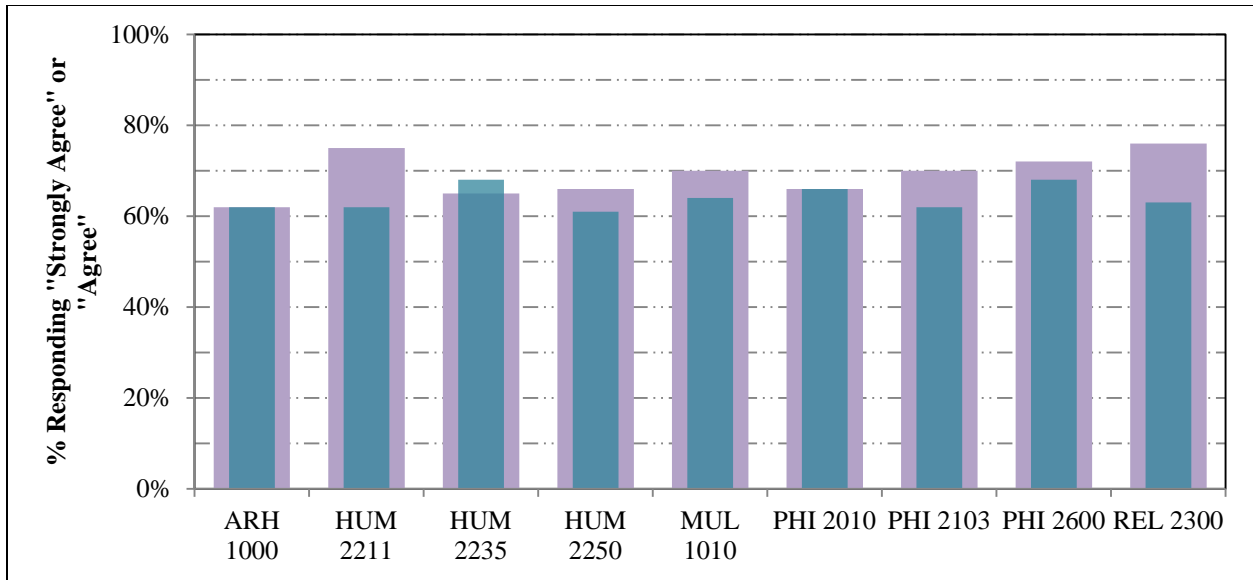


Figure 17. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q13 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

## Resist the urge for quick and easy answers

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the fourth outcome “Resist the urge for quick and easy answers.” shared by HUM 2211, 2235, 2250, PHI 2100, 2103, and 2600 are shown in Figure 18 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 19, 20, 21, and 22.

	Humanities									Humanities								
	HUM 2211			HUM 2235			HUM 2250			PHI 2100			PHI 2103			PHI 2600		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q14	3%	-2%	-1%	-7%	-6%	13%	1%	3%	-4%	0%	-7%	7%	8%	4%	-12%	5%	-11%	5%
Q15	-12%	8%	3%	3%	-1%	-3%	-1%	-6%	7%	-1%	4%	-3%	3%	-9%	6%	-7%	1%	6%
Q16	0%	-6%	6%	-5%	9%	-4%	-8%	2%	6%	-3%	1%	2%	1%	5%	-6%	-2%	0%	3%
Q17	1%	-2%	1%	2%	6%	-7%	3%	-4%	1%	-1%	2%	-1%	0%	-2%	3%	-1%	1%	0%

Figure 18. Comparison of responses to disposition “Display open-mindedness.” Questions from left to right for question 17, - reflects the ordinal options “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree”, Neutral reflects “Neutral”, and + reflects “Agree”, and “Strongly Agree.” For questions 14, 15, and 16, - reflects “Agree” and “Strongly Agree” and + reflects “Disagree” and “Strongly Disagree” as the prompt is written in negative phrasing.

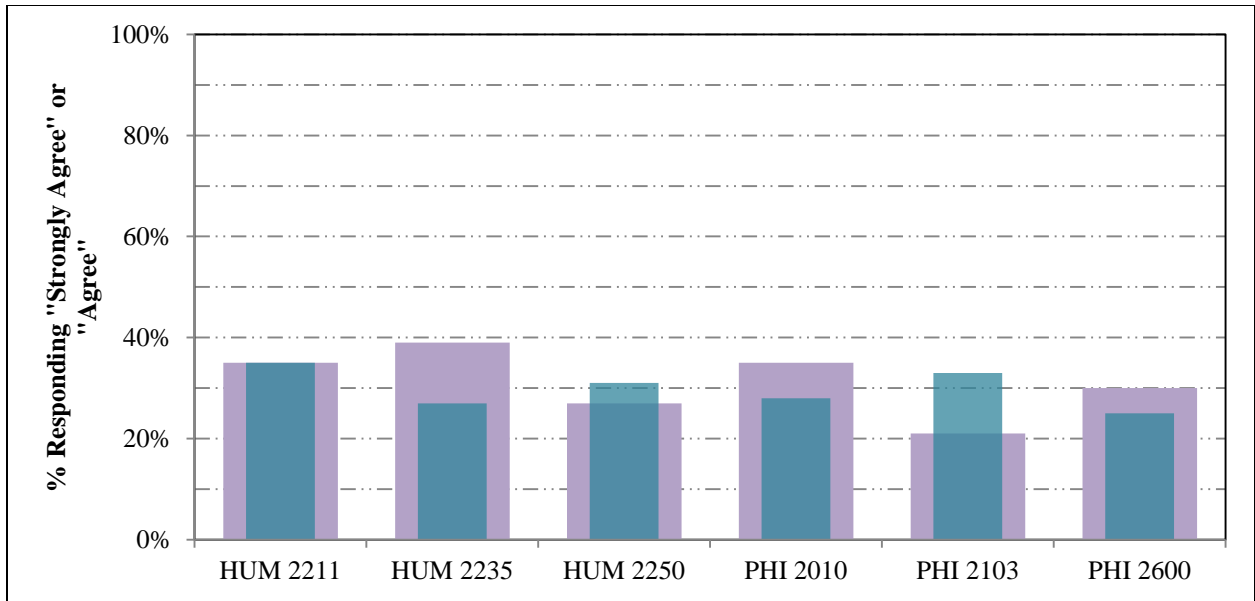


Figure 19. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q14 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

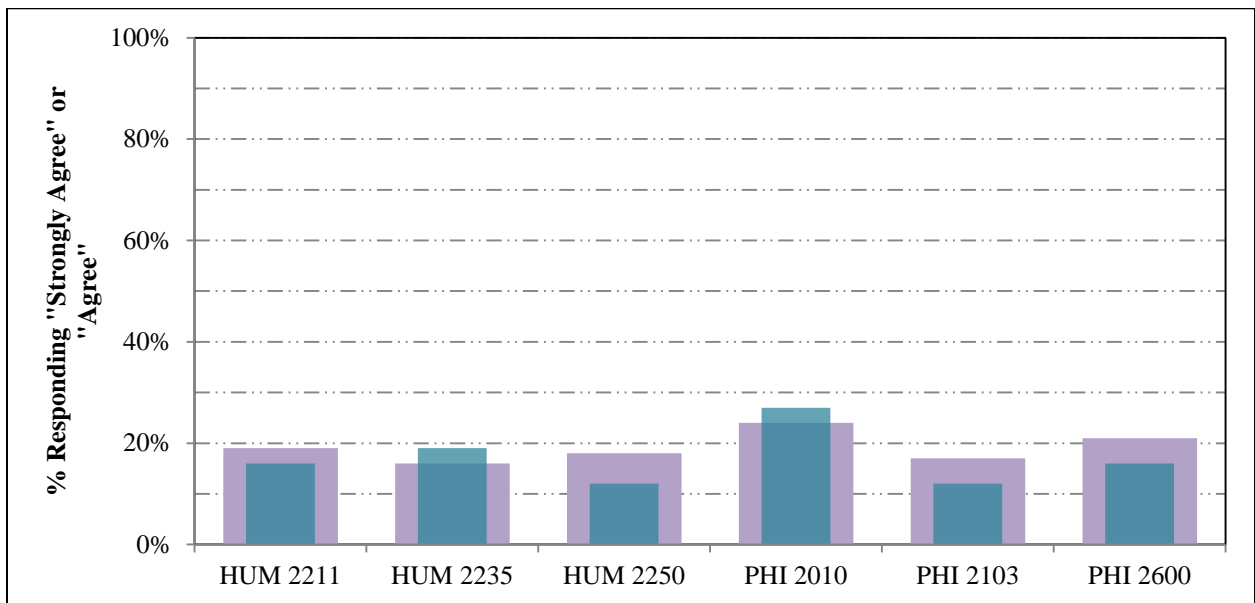


Figure 20. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q15 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

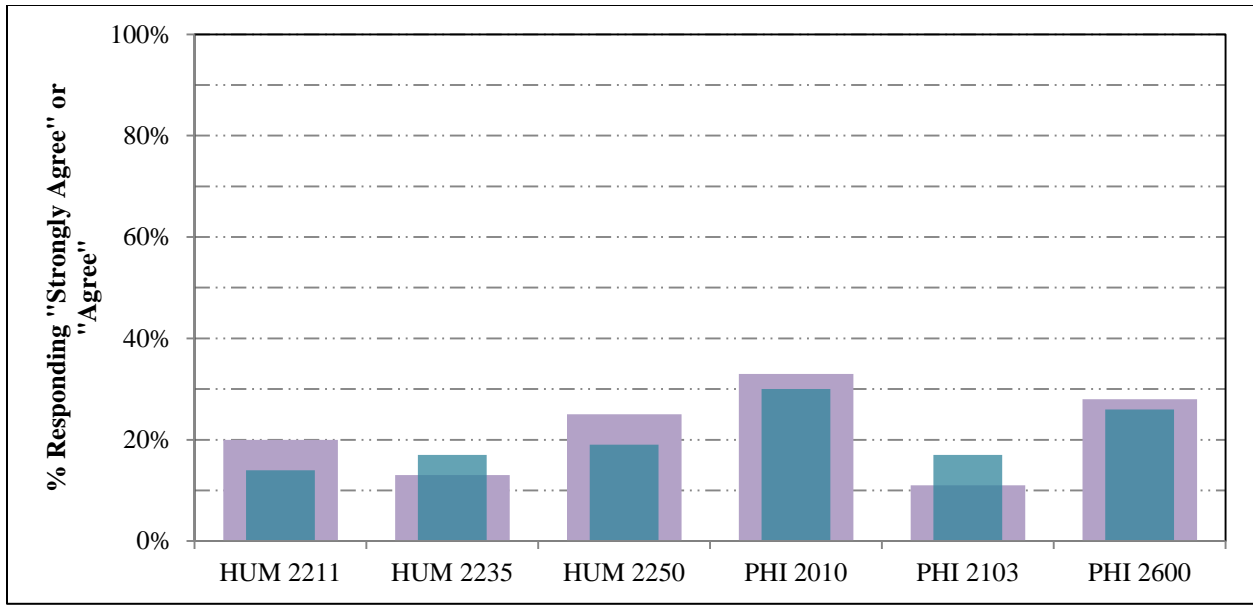


Figure 21. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q16 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

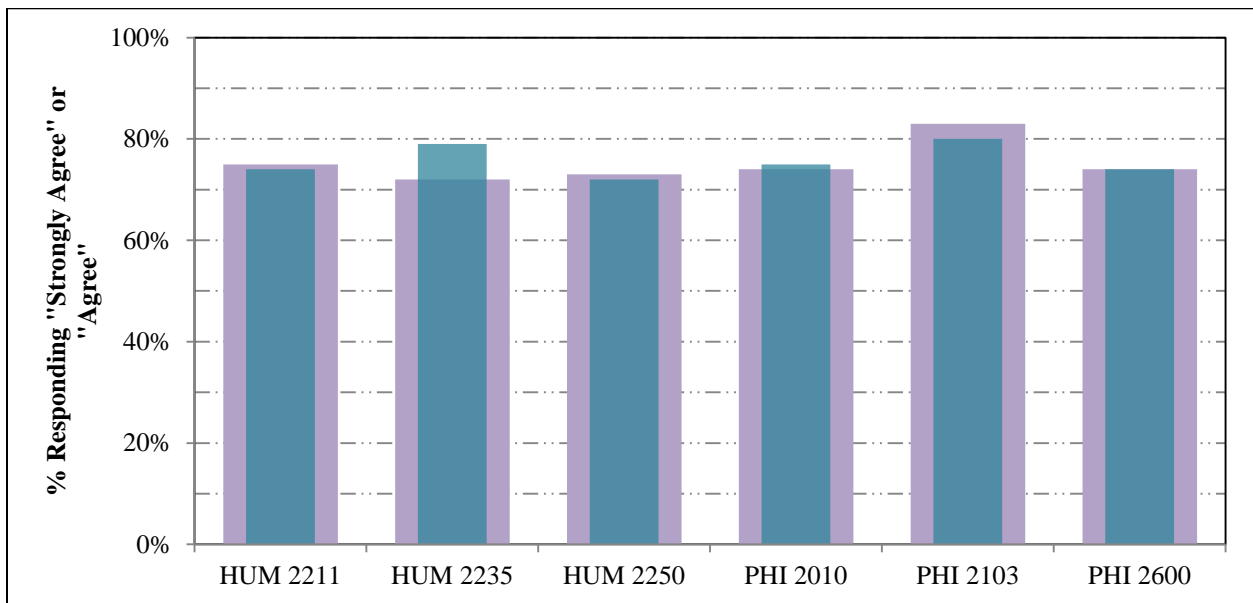


Figure 22. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q17 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

## Seek knowledge independently

Results of changes in negative, neutral, and positive responses from pre-test to post-test for the fourth outcome “Seek knowledge independently.” shared by MUL 1010 and REL 2300 are shown in Figure 23 below. Comparisons of pre-test and post-test disposition results are shown in Figures 24, 25, and 26.

	Disposition "Display open-mindedness."					
	MUL 1010			REL 2300		
	-	Neutral	+	-	Neutral	+
Q18	2%	1%	-3%	2%	-1%	4%
Q19	-3%	6%	-4%	3%	3%	-4%
Q20	6%	7%	-14%	-1%	7%	-14%

-25%	-15%	-5%	5%	15%	25%
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Figure 23. Comparison of responses to disposition "Display open-mindedness." Questions from left to right for questions 18 and 19, - reflects the ordinal options "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree", Neutral reflects "Neutral", and + reflects "Agree", and "Strongly Agree." For question 20, - reflects "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" and + reflects "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree" as the prompt is written in negative phrasing.

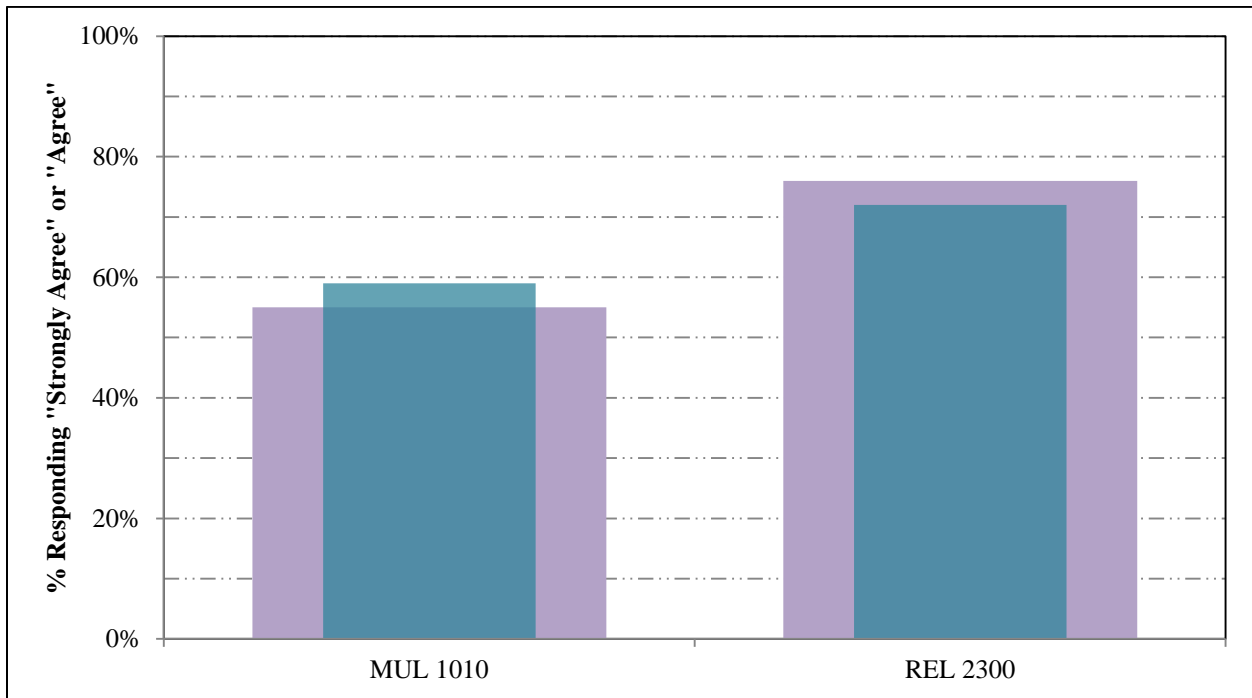


Figure 24. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q18 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

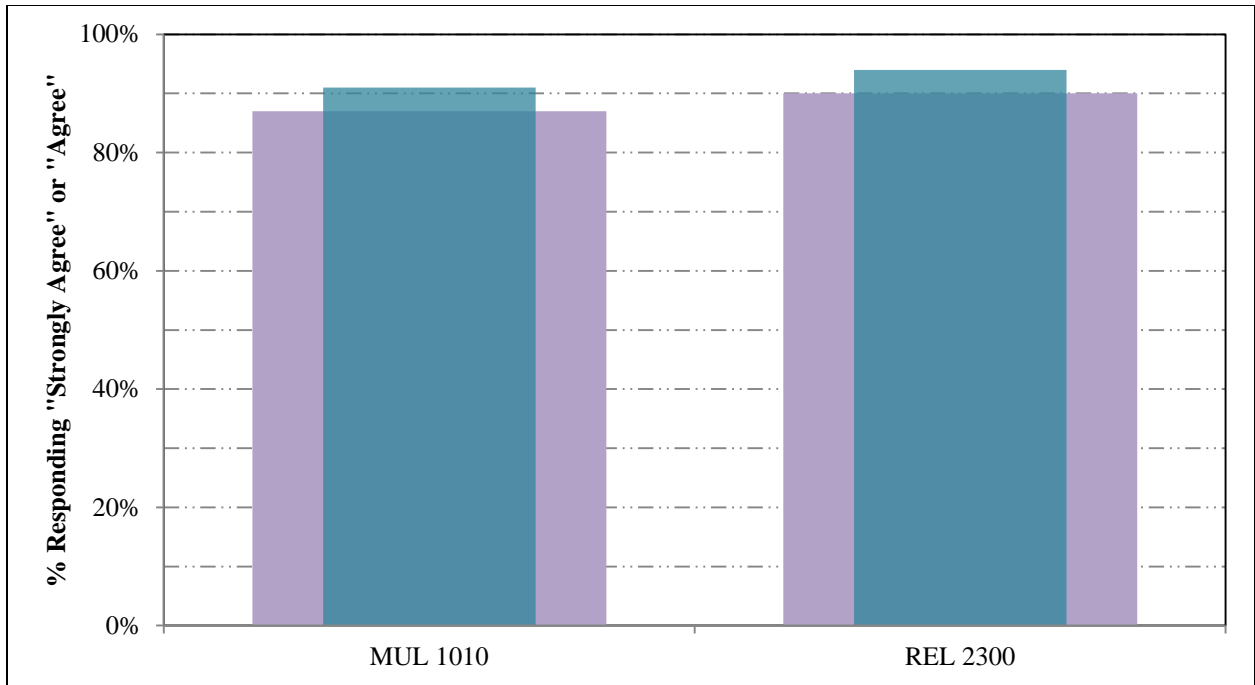


Figure 25. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q19 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

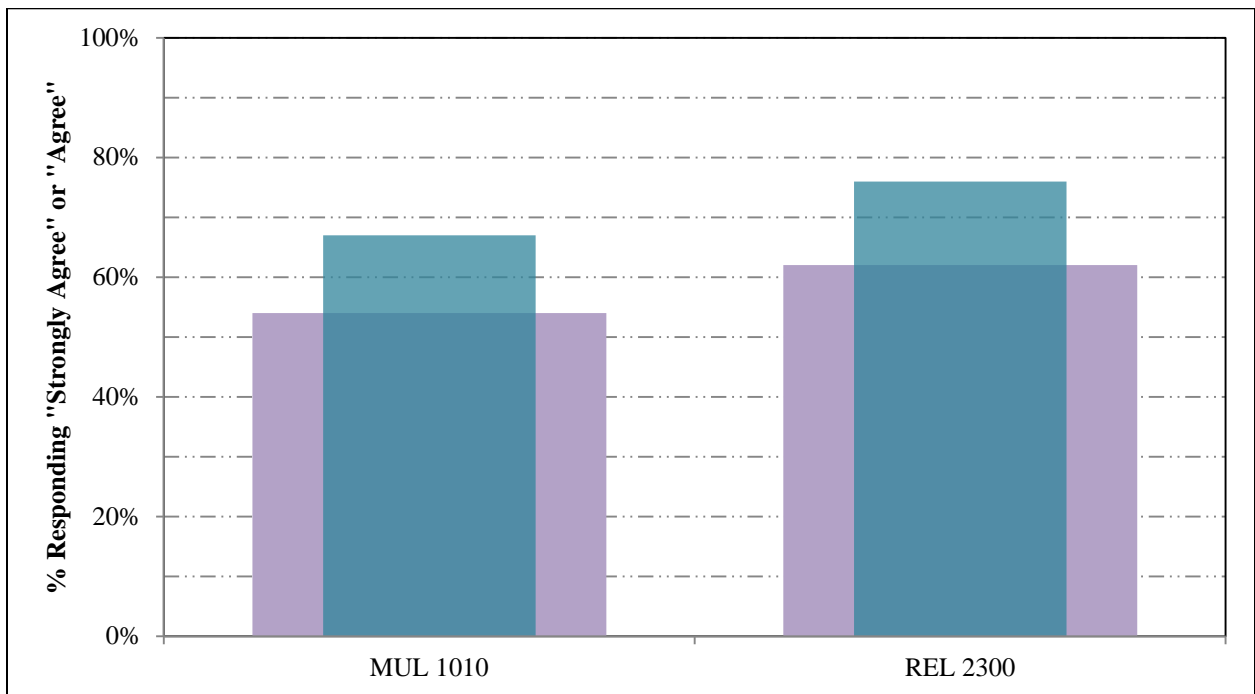


Figure 26. Comparison of pre-test survey and post-test survey responses for Q20 (see Table 1 for details) where pre-test is aqua and post-test is purple.

## Summation

Table 2 below lists each disposition prompt (and associated learning outcome), courses include that question, and positive increases (red) or negative increases (blue) greater than five percentage points.

		ARH 1000	HUM 2211	HUM 2235	HUM 2250	MUL 1010	PHI 2010	PHI 2103	PHI 2600	REL 2300
<b>Engage with the course material on a personal level.</b>										
Q1	I often continue to think about ideas or issues covered in my classes after my instructor is finished with them.	X				X	X	X	X	X
Q2	I often feel that ideas or concepts that I study in my classes are relevant to my own life.	X				X	X	X	X	X
Q3	I allow what I learn in class to impact how I see the world.	X				X	X	X	X	X
<b>Display open-mindedness.</b>										
Q4	It bothers me when different perspectives on an issue seem equally valid. (R)	X	X	X	X					
Q5	I value more perspectives on an issue rather than fewer	X	X	X	X					
Q6	I am willing to change my mind based on new evidence.	X	X	X	X					
Q7	I do not like it when my beliefs are challenged. (R)	X	X	X	X					
<b>Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another.</b>										
Q8	Instead of focusing on what I think is wrong about what someone is saying or writing I prefer to try to understand how the ideas might make sense.	X					X	X	X	X
Q9	I feel like those who disagree with me make me look more seriously at perspectives I'd otherwise dismiss.	X					X	X	X	X
Q10	I feel that reading a text from the author's perspective is essential for understanding it.	X					X	X	X	X
<b>Relate the course material to life outside the classroom.</b>										
Q11	I like to see connections between course material and current events.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q12	I often discuss ideas from my readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q13	I often find ways to relate ideas or concepts from my classes to something of interest to my friends.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Resist the urge for quick and easy answers.</b>										
Q14	I feel uncomfortable when I leave a class not knowing what to believe about something we have been studying. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Q15	I don't like feeling uncertain about ideas or issues. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Q16	I think instructors should give firm solutions to problems discussed in class. (R)		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Q17	If an answer occurs to me right away, I still prefer to consider other possibilities.		X	X	X		X	X	X	
<b>Seek knowledge independently.</b>										
Q18	I often investigate ideas, issues, or concepts more deeply outside of my classes to learn more about them.					X				X
Q19	If something sparks my interest, I will look into it further on my own.					X				X
Q20	I believe knowledge is only valuable if it improves my grade. (R)					X				X

Table 2. Organization of disposition questions by course with positive response increases greater than 5% points (red) and positive response decreases greater than 5% points (blue).